

# The Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2005

### **Opening**

A meeting of the Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee was held on this date.

#### **Present:**

Ballantyne, Todd  
Blanchard, Richard  
Bowers, Mike  
Dahlgren, David  
Elmore, Dwayne  
Gallegos, David  
Larsen, Randy  
Lowe, Fred  
Miller, Ron  
Mitchell, Dean (DWR Upland Game Program Coordinator)  
Osentowski, Joseph  
Perkins, Ernie  
Potts, Dan  
Proctor, Travis  
Sorensen, Ryan (Secretary)  
Staley, John  
Wells, Brandon

### **Old Business**

#### **Sage-grouse/Falconry**

After further reviewing the proposed changes the DWR decided not to change the current Sage-grouse permit distribution process.

#### **Walk-in Access Report**

This position has been filled temporarily by an existing DWR staff person. A job posting for a permanent position was listed on 3-8-05. Applicants are being interviewed at this time.

### **New Business**

#### **Sharp-tailed Grouse Lek Survey**

The annual volunteer Sharp-tailed Grouse lek count has been completed. Preliminary count summaries indicate approximately 8% increase in bird counts in comparison to last year. Weather impacted some visits this year. Many trips were unproductive. Additionally, some leks were at a count peak in late March while others peaked in late April or early May. As a result, the count probably understates the number of birds in the breeding population this year.

#### **Review Proposed Proclamation Changes**

The division reviewed the Upland Game Advisory Committee's recommendations and decided on several items to present to the upcoming RAC meetings. Items include: White-tailed Ptarmigan and Sharp-tailed Grouse season changes, youth hunting opportunities, and online permit features.

## **Habitat Council Projects**

The committee reviewed an Upland Game Habitat potential project list for Fiscal Year 2006. Items were prioritized and the committee supports the items to be presented to the Habitat Council for voting. Priority items included: Guzzler Research, Walk-in Access Pilot Program, Guzzler Maintenance, and Predator Management.

## **2005 Guzzler Study Proposal**

Randy Larsen has submitted a proposal to the DWR for funds to continue the chukar guzzler study.

The following organizations have pledged verbal or monetary support:

Great Salt Lake Pheasants Forever

Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

US Forest Service

Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation

This proposal is one of the prioritized Upland Game Habitat Council projects for Fiscal Year 2006.

## **Ruffed Grouse Society - Utah**

David Dahlgren and Dwayne Elmore presented ideas about creating a group to represent Forest Grouse in Utah and other western states. They discussed the decline of Aspen regeneration and the need to manage forests to maintain and enhance grouse habitat. They are looking for support from the DWR, Forest Service, BLM, and any other groups or individuals.

## **Upland Game on the Internet**

You can get more Utah upland game information at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/> including the past minutes for this committee, news, proclamations, and information about upcoming public meetings.

## **Agenda for Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. at the DWR State Office at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City. Future meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise agreed upon.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings; it's an opportunity for you to get any issues you know about onto the table.

Let us know of donations, projects, etc., made by your group – we want to publicize good activities!

If you know of other interested parties who should get copies of the minutes, and who are involved in upland game organizations or programs, please get us their name. If you want to make an electronic mail input, please send it to one of the following:

Dean Mitchell [deanmitchell@utah.gov](mailto:deanmitchell@utah.gov)  
Jim Gaskill [jhgaskill@weber.edu](mailto:jhgaskill@weber.edu)

Ryan Sorensen [ryan@mybirddog.com](mailto:ryan@mybirddog.com)

Respectfully submitted ...

Ryan Sorensen